FD-263 (Rev. 12-19-67)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE	OFFICE OF ORIGIN	DATE	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD
MEMPHIS	MEMPHIS	12/30/69	9/10/69 - 12/29/69

TITLE OF CASE	REPORT MADE BY	TYPED BY
INVADERS	SA BURL F. JOHNSON	wp
	CHARACTER OF CASE: RACIAL MATTERS	

REFERENCE

Report of SA BURL F. JOHNSON dated 9/10/69 at Memphis.

-P-

LEADS

MEMPHIS

AT MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE

Will continue to follow and report pertinent activities of the Invaders.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS CLAIMED (X) NONE						ACQUIT-TALS	CASE HAS BEEN:
CONVIC.	AUTO.	FUG.	FINES	SAVINGS	RECOVERIES		PENDING OVER ONE YEAR ☐ YES ☐ NO PENDING PROSECUTION OVER SIX MONTHS ☐ YES ☐ NO

APPROVED _____ SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW

B. Johnson

COPIES MADE: ALL COPIES REGISTERED MAIL
8-Bureau (157-8460)
1-USA, Memphis
1-U. S. Secret Service, Memphis
1-Intelligence Headquarters, Third Army, Ft. McPherson, Ga.
1-NISO, Charleston, S. C.
1-111th MI, Nashville
1-OSI, Maxwell AFB, Ala.
(2)-Memphis (157-1067)

Dissemination Record of Attached Report				
Agency				
Request Recd.				
Date Fwd.				
How Fwd.				
By				

Notations

ENCLOSED _____
SEARCHED Ahe
INDEXED _____
FILED Ahe

157-1067-1699

GPO : 1968 O - 299-885

COVER PAGE

ME 157-1067

INFORMANTS

Identity of Source	File Where Located
ME T-1 is [redacted]	ME 170-70-Sub
ME T-2 is [redacted]	ME 100-662
ME T-3 is [redacted]	ME 170-1040-Sub
ME T-4 is [redacted]	ME 170-1022-Sub

ADMINISTRATIVE

Copies of this report are being furnished to U. S. Secret Service and U. S. Attorney, both Memphis, Tennessee, as well as to Regional Offices of the Military Intelligence Agencies pursuant to Bureau policy in furnishing information of this type to those agencies.

This report is classified "Confidential" because it contains information from informants and sources of continuing value, whose identities if revealed might compromise their effectiveness and adversely affect the security of the United States.

Careful consideration was given to the use of T symbols, and T symbols were utilized only in those instances where it was necessary to conceal the source.

B*
COVER PAGE

FD-204 (Rev. 3-3-69)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Copy to:
1 - U. S. Attorney, Memphis, Tennessee
1 - U. S. Secret Service, Memphis, Tennessee
1 - Intelligence Headquarters, Third Army, Ft. McPherson, Georgia
1 - NISO, Charleston, South Carolina
1 - 111th MI, Nashville, Tennessee
1 - OSI, Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama

Report of: SA BURL F. JOHNSON — Office: Memphis
Date: December 30, 1969

Field Office File No.: ME 157-1067 — Bureau File No.: 157-8460

Title: INVADERS

Character: RACIAL MATTERS

Synopsis: The Invaders, a black militant organization, was founded in Memphis, Tennessee, in the summer of 1967. In May, 1969, the membership of the Invaders was estimated to be 40, with 20 hard-core members. In December, 1969, the Invaders had an active membership of 7. In December, 1969, the Invaders had no headquarters address and maintained no bank account. In the fall of 1969, LANCE WATSON, leader of the Invaders, and his associates participated in activities sponsored by the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). In the fall of 1969, the Invaders instituted a program known as "Operation Breakfast" which was to provide the morning meal for 100 children in the ghetto area of Memphis.

-P-

DETAILS:

I. ORGANIZATION

A. Origin

A militant black nationalist group of young Memphis, Tennessee, Negroes, now known as Invaders, was originally

[redacted]

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

formed in the summer and fall of 1967 by three Memphis Negroes, CODY VERNON SMITH, [illegible] SMITH, and CHARLES LAVERNE CABBAGE. During the fall of 1967 and spring of 1968, it assumed the name of Black Organizing Project (BOP), with subsidiary cells known as Afro-American Brotherhood (AAB) at Owen College; Black Student Association (BSA) at Memphis State University; LeMoyne College Intercollegiate Chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (LIC, NAACP) at LeMoyne College; Invaders, primarily consisting of high school students and school dropouts; and City Organizers, consisting of young non-student adults; all having a combined average membership of about 100. The ostensible purpose was to create pride in black identity, to teach black culture and black history, and to obtain employment for young blacks.

(ME T-1, 5/7/69)

B. Headquarters

The headquarters of the Invaders was located at 271 Vance Street, Memphis, Tennessee, from December 18, 1968, to June 9, 1969. The building at this address was rented in the name of the "Community Organization Club" and the lease was signed for a period from December 23, 1968, to June 23, 1969.

(ME T-2, 8/22/69)

On August 22, 1969, Lieutenant E. H. ARKIN, Intelligence Bureau, Memphis Police Department, Memphis, Tennessee, advised that on June 9, 1969, personnel of the Intelligence Bureau, Memphis Police Department, observed that the building located at 271 Vance Street, Memphis, had been padlocked, the windows had been boarded up, and no visible activity on the part of the Invaders at this address was observed.

As of December 10, 1969, the Invaders had no headquarters address. LANCE WATSON, the leader of the Invaders, resided on a part-time basis at the residence of his grandmother, 333 Webster, Memphis; part-time at the residence of his mother, 1709 South Parkway East, Memphis; and part-time at the Trumpet Motel, 380 South Second Street, Memphis. His main base of operations was at the home of

his mother, 1709 South Pa[illegible] and most business matters concerning the Invaders were handled at the latter address.

(ME T-1, 12/10/69)

C. Officers and Staff

As of May 13, 1969, the officers and staff of the Invaders were as follows:

Prime Minister:	LANCE "Sweet Willie Wine" WATSON
Chairman:	LOUIS "The Lock" WELCH
Petty Treasurer:	JAMES PEGUES
Business Manager:	DONALD PIGFORD
Secretary:	CACHEATUH UNDRE SMITH
Assistant Secretary:	BRENDA MAJORS
Assistant Secretary:	GWENDOLYN WHITE
Minister of Defense	MELVIN SMITH

(ME T-1 and ME T-2, 8/25/69)

As of December 19, 1969, the following members of the officers and staff of the Invaders listed above were no longer active in the organization:

LOUIS WELCH
JAMES PEGUES
CACHEATUH UNDRE SMITH
BRENDA MAJORS
GWENDOLYN WHITE
MELVIN SMITH

(ME T-1, ME T-2, and ME T-3, 12/23/69)

The Invaders currently have no officers and staff members. The Invaders are led by LANCE "Sweet Willie Wine" WATSON, who refers to himself as the Prime Minister. WATSON is assisted by MICHAEL JEROME STARKS.

(ME T-3, ME T-2, 12/23/69)

D. Finances

As of December, 1969, the Invaders organization maintained no bank account and had no known source of income.

(ME T-1, ME T-2, 12/23/69)

E. Membership

In May, 1969, the membership of the Invaders was estimated to be 40, with about 20 hard-core members.

(ME T-1, ME T-2, 5/7/69)

In December, 1969, the membership of the Invaders was composed of seven active members, who are as follows:

NATHANIEL NESBITT JOHNSON
MICHAEL JEROME STARKS
WILBERT JAMES, JR., also known as "Top Cat"
ARLANDO WARMSLEY, also known as Tony
DONALD PIGFORD
TYRONE HOSEA McNAIRY
LANCE "Sweet Willie Wine" WATSON

(ME T-1, ME T-2, 12/23/69)

With the exception of MICHAEL JEROME STARKS, other members of the Invaders are seldom seen with LANCE "Sweet Willie Wine" WATSON. They reportedly feel that he is a "phony" and they are "fed up" with his leadership.

(ME T-1, 12/23/69)

II. ACTIVITIES

LANCE "Sweet Willie Wine" WATSON led a march commencing at approximately 8:00 a.m., August 20, 1969, at West Memphis, Arkansas, and terminating at the State Capitol Building, Little Rock, Arkansas, on August 24, 1969. Thereafter WATSON returned to Forrest City, Arkansas, where he was assaulted by a group of white individuals who were demonstrating near the City Hall on the night of August 26, 1969. As a result of the assault on WATSON by these unknown persons, he received a broken left arm and lacerations around the head and face. WATSON was taken by his friends to a Forrest City hospital and returned to Memphis, Tennessee, with an Arkansas Highway Patrol escort on the evening of August 27, 1969.

(ME T-1, 8/28/69;
ME T-2, 8/28/69)

On August 28, 1969, WATSON indicated he was undecided as to his future action. He stated he did not intend to engage in any armed invasion of Forrest City, Arkansas.

(ME T-1, 8/28/69)

LANCE "Sweet Willie Wine" WATSON was observed with some of his associates at Somerville, Tennessee, on August 30, 1969, where a march and rally were held to insist on the rightful demands made by blacks in the Somerville community.

(ME T-1, 9/2/69)

On September 29, 1969, LANCE "Sweet Willie Wine" WATSON voluntarily appeared at the Memphis FBI Office, Memphis, Tennessee, where he furnished a signed statement to Special Agents of the FBI, stating in part as follows:

"I was born in Memphis, Tenn., August 19, 1938. My legal address is 1709 So. Parkway East, Memphis, Tenn.

"I am, and was, during summer of 1969, Prime Minister of a Memphis based Black Human Rights group, known as the Invaders. I am known as 'Sweet Willie Wine.'

"In late June 1969, Rev. Cleo Brooks, co-chairman of the Committee for Peaceful Coexistence, a Forrest City, Ark., civil rights group aimed at helping the Forrest City black community, solicited my help in working with his group and other black Forrest City citizens. I agreed and thereafter spent practically all of my time in Forrest City with Brooks and others. We sought to improve black conditions in Forrest City, such as, more equitable administration of justice, more black employment in private business, as well as in local government, improvement of streets in black areas, and improved housing and living conditions of local blacks.

"In fact, to demonstrate our unity, we sponsored, for several weeks, a selective buying campaign aimed at having blacks buy only at stores which hired black employees. The Committee had planned a mass march to commence at West Memphis, Ark., on or about August 20, 1969, and to end at Little Rock, Arkansas.

"Brooks later postponed the proposed Committee for Peaceful Coexistence march.

"In order to exercise what I felt to be my constitutional right I led a 'march against fear' march beginning in West Memphis, Ark., August 20, 1969 ending in Little Rock August 24, 1969. This march primarily consisted of a few Invaders plus a few Forrest City and surrounding town people. Kennie Baker, Joe Burns Jr. aka King Jewell, Wilbert James Jr. aka T. C. and Joe Calhoun, all Memphis Invaders, participated. Later in the march, Gwendolyn White, an Invader, joined us."

(A characterization of the Committee for Peaceful Coexistence is set forth in the appendix section of this report.)

On October 3, 1969, Inspector DON SMITH, Intelligence Bureau, Memphis Police Department, Memphis, Tennessee, advised that the black power group in Memphis, Tennessee, known as the Invaders, led by LANCE "Sport Willie Wine" WATSON, was creating some racial tension at Memphis through the appearance of this group at various rallies held in conjunction with the activities of the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) and the NAACP. In addition, WATSON appeared in a picket line at

the Memphis Plant of Plough, [illegible], which was undergoing a labor strike. Invaders a[illegible] in the Negro ghetto area a program known [illegible] "Operation Breakfast" wherein the Invaders, led by [illegible], established in various locations throughout [illegible] Beale Street area collection boxes for donations, the purpose of which was to provide morning meals [illegible] children in the Foote Homes area, a ghetto [illegible] of Memphis. According to Inspector SMITH, the Memphis Negro community is of the opinion that this "Operation Breakfast" is a gimmick whereby the Invaders are attempting to improve their public image and at the same time raise money for their activities.

On October 2, 1969, [illegible] furnished a copy of a throwaway which LANCE WATSON had printed advertising his "Operation Breakfast." This throwaway stated in part, "We need your help and donations. Send your donations to: Operation Breakfast, 1709 South Parkway East, phone 272-3172, sponsored by Sweet Willie Wine and the Black United Front."

On October 18, 1969, WATSON was heard to comment that he had only a small group in the Invaders at that time. He stated that he had not more than four or five active members.

(ME T-[illegible], 10/19/69)

LANCE WATSON was observed at a peace vigil sponsored by the Vietnam Moratorium Committee on the evening of October 14, 1969, at Southwestern University, Memphis, Tennessee. During the course of the evening, WATSON spoke concerning the revolution and what the black people plan to do.

(ME T-[illegible], 10/18/69)

On October 9, 1969, LANCE "Sweet Willie Wine" WATSON and his assistant, MICHAEL JEROME STARKS, prepared a throwaway entitled "Black Fireman Fired." This throwaway states as follows:

"Fireman Fired. Walter Lloyd Thomas Moore was fired because of racial hatred for any black man who stands

up and acts as a man. Brother [illegible] is not guilty of what he is accused of. He is only guilty of being black and being a man. Brother [illegible] was called a _____ by the white policemen, who have perfected their tactic of oppressing black people and beating black women and kids. Black people cannot talk on the corner without being beaten and arrested. People, we must unite ourselves. This go for black teachers, preachers, and all. If you are black, you are still a nigger. You may be next."

(ME T-2, 10/16/69)

WATSON and some of his associates were observed at a meeting sponsored by the NAACP on October 20, 1969, at the Clayborn Temple, 280 Fernando Street, Memphis. This meeting was held for the purpose of discussing future activities by the Black Coalition in connection with demands made on the Memphis City Board of Education and the St. Joseph Hospital.

(ME T-2, 10/28/69)

WATSON was observed to participate in a march sponsored by the NAACP and the AFSCME on October 27, 1969, in downtown Memphis, Tennessee. This march was held to dramatize the demands made by the NAACP and the AFSCME on the Board of Education in Memphis and St. Joseph Hospital located in Memphis.

(ME T-2, 10/28/69)

WATSON was observed at a meeting sponsored by the NAACP on October 21, 1969, at the LeMoyne-Owen College, Memphis. At this meeting WATSON spoke. He began by stating that the black people must understand the problems and issues as they exist. He then told the news media not to turn on the TV cameras because every time a so-called radical like him gets up to speak, the news media wants to put him on the TV screen so the system can destroy him. WATSON stated he was not playing that game any more and warned them not to touch the cameras. He then stated that his message is to keep pushing ahead with your demands and don't stop for anything. He reminded the audience how they were fooled after the sanitation strike in Memphis in 1968. He told them they stood by and

let the police put all of the Invaders in jail, and stood by and let them put up concentration camps around the schools. He stated now all they have to do is put electricity in those fences and the kids can't get out. He then told the City Council and all white people, "When you see us moving ahead, follow us; if we stop, push us; and if we turn around, kill us."

(ME T-2, 10/28/69)

LANCE WATSON and his associates were observed to participate in picket line in downtown Memphis, Tennessee, on November 3, 1969, sponsored by the NAACP and the AFSCME.

(ME T-2, 11/6/69)

WATSON and other members of the Invaders were observed at a meeting sponsored by the NAACP on October 30, 1969, at 280 Hernando Street, Memphis. During the meeting WATSON told some of those near him that there was going to be an assassination of one of them (meaning representatives of the NAACP or the AFSCME) and that they might as well be ready because somebody is going to get killed.

(ME T-2, 11/5/69)

On November 1, 1969, LANCE WATSON and two other members of the Invaders went to the Southgate Shopping Center, Memphis, Tennessee, and requested the manager of various business establishments at this shopping center to close on Monday in compliance with a black Monday called by the NAACP and the AFSCME.

(ME T-2, 11/6/69)

On October 27, 1969, LANCE WATSON and other members of the Invaders were observed participating in a demonstration sponsored by the NAACP and AFSCME in downtown Memphis, Tennessee.

(ME T-2, 11/7/69)

On November 1, 1969, WATSON was observed participating in a demonstration sponsored by the NAACP and Local 1733 of the AFSCME in downtown Memphis, Tennessee. The demonstration was held for the purpose

of dramatizing the demands made by the NAACP and Local 1733 on the Board of Education of the City and St. Joseph Hospital at Memphis. WATSON and other members of the Invaders were carrying a Black Liberation flag, the symbol for black liberation.

(ME T-2, 11/7/69)

On November 3, 1969, LANCE WATSON and other members of the Invaders were participating in a march and demonstration sponsored by the NAACP and AFSCME. Several members spoke in front of the City Hall at Memphis, including LANCE WATSON.

(ME T-2, 11/7/69)

On the night of November 10, 1969, an attempt was made by some 400 Negroes, led by Rev. RALPH D. ABERNATHY, President of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC), in defiance of the Memphis Police Department regulation prohibiting marches after 3:30 p.m. in an effort to obviate the tying up of downtown traffic. Several of the march leaders were arrested and this was followed by rock-throwing and brick-throwing on the part of blacks toward officers of the Memphis Police Department. LANCE WATSON, MICHAEL STARKS, and other members of the Invaders made a concerted effort to get the young blacks to return to Clayborn Temple, where the march originated, after the rock-throwing incident started.

(ME T-1, 11/11/69)

LANCE WATSON reportedly went to Cincinnati, Ohio, during the week ending November 22, 1969, to see JAMES BROWN, the well-known soul singer, in an effort to obtain funds from BROWN. WATSON has indicated he would like to buy a tract of land near Memphis to raise food for black militants in the event they ever have their food sources cut off by the white power structure.

(ME T-1, 11/26/69)

ME 157-1067

LANCE WATSON and other members of the Invaders were observed at a dance sponsored by the AFSCME on November 21, 1969, at the Club Paradise, Memphis, Tennessee.

(36 T-1. 11/26/69)

THE COMMITTEE FOR PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE
AND THE FORREST CITY NEGRO YOUTH GROUP

On December 18, 1968, Chief MARVIN GUNN, Forrest City, Arkansas, Police Department, furnished a copy of a letter addressed to "Our Ministers and other important leaders of St. Francis County -- from concerned Teen-agers." On the pages attached to the letter appeared the signatures of approximately 345 persons described in the letter as Negro teenagers of St. Francis County, Arkansas. The letter, according to Chief GUNN, was distributed to all ministers in St. Francis County and the essence of the letter is that the Negro youths of the county were disappointed since the Negro leaders failed to support in the November 1968 General Election a Negro candidate for State Representative. Chief GUNN stated that the group was referring to Reverend J. F. COOLEY, who was a candidate for State Representative from St. Francis County and who was defeated by a white candidate.

The letter further stated that the Negro leaders were given 30 days to take some action regarding the racial situation in the community and if no action was taken, the group planned to take action on their own. It stated that "We are willing to fill up the jails and prisons if necessary. We plan to disturb your conscience to make things better for us."

The letter was signed by EVELYN GRIHIM, spokesman, P. O. Box 114, Madison, Arkansas.

Chief GUNN advised that this letter was disseminated by the Forrest City Negro Youth Group of which EVELYN GRIHIM is President and Reverend J. F. COOLEY is adult supervisor. He stated that the group was recently organized, apparently as a result of Reverend COOLEY being defeated in the above-mentioned election.

On March 20, 1969, Reverend J. F. COOLEY advised that he is the adult advisor of the Forrest City Negro Youth Group, which is composed of about 1,000 Negro teen-agers. He further advised that he is the county chairman, along with Reverend CATO BROOKS of Forrest City, of the Committee for Peaceful Coexistence, which is the adult counterpart of the Forrest City Negro Youth Group. This group has about 200 members made up of Negro adults in St. Francis County.

THE COMMITTEE FOR PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE
AND THE FORREST CITY NEGRO YOUTH GROUP

Reverend COOLEY advised on May 2, 1969, that he continues as sponsor of the Forrest City Negro Youth Group and co-chairman of the Committee for Peaceful Coexistence which meets every Tuesday night at the St. Andrews Presbyterian Church, where Reverend COOLEY is pastor. He stated that the objectives of the group are to promote and participate in civil rights activities, political activities, and to make the Negro community aware of its rights under the civil rights laws. Reverend COOLEY stated that he has never advocated violence or disrespect for law and order.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
Memphis, Tennessee
December 30, 1969

In Reply, Please Refer to File No.

Title JAMMERS

Character BURGLARY MATTERS

Reference Report of SA BURL F. JOHNSON dated December 30, 1969, at Memphis, Tennessee, and captioned as above

All sources (except any listed below) whose identities are concealed in referenced communication have furnished reliable information in the past.

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.